

Assembly Bill No. 1495

CHAPTER 119

An act to amend Section 101.7 of the Streets and Highways Code, relating to highways.

[Approved by Governor July 20, 2007. Filed with
Secretary of State July 20, 2007.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1495, La Malfa. Information signs for roadside businesses in rural areas: RV-friendly symbols.

Existing law provides that the Department of Transportation shall have full possession and control of the state highway system. Existing law requires the department to adopt rules and regulations to allow the placement of information signs identifying specific roadside businesses offering fuel, food, lodging, or camping near exits on freeways in rural areas, and to charge a fee in that regard.

This bill would require the department to incorporate an "RV-friendly" symbol on a sign placed under these provisions for a specific roadside business that requests the symbol and meets criteria of the department relating to sufficiency of access for recreational vehicles. The bill would require the department to adopt rules and regulations and to charge an additional fee for placement and maintenance of the symbol.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 101.7 of the Streets and Highways Code is amended to read:

101.7. (a) The department shall adopt rules and regulations which allow the placement near exits on freeways located in rural areas, of information signs identifying specific roadside businesses offering fuel, food, lodging, or camping services and which prescribe the standards for those signs.

(b) The department shall provide equal access to all business applicants.

(c) The department shall not approve the placement of any sign within any urban area designated by the United States Bureau of the Census as having a population of 5,000 or more.

The department may not remove an information sign that was placed before January 1, 2003, due solely to population growth in an urban area that results in a population of 5,000 or more but less than 10,000.

(d) The information signs may be placed near the freeway exits in addition to, or in lieu of, other highway signs of the department, but not in lieu of

on-premises or off-premises highway oriented business signs and directional signs.

(e) The department shall establish and charge a fee to place and maintain information signs in an amount not less than 25 percent above its estimated cost in placing and maintaining the information signs. The department shall annually review the amount of that fee and revise it as necessary. Funds derived from the imposition of the fee, after deduction of the cost to the department for the placement and maintenance of the information signs, shall be available, upon appropriation by the Legislature, for safety roadside rest purposes.

(f) The department shall incorporate the use of an “RV-friendly” symbol on an information sign placed pursuant to subdivision (a) for a specific roadside business that meets criteria of the department regarding sufficiency for recreational vehicles with respect to the parking spaces and surfaces, vertical clearance, turning radius, and entrances and exits of the facility. A specific roadside business otherwise qualified for a sign pursuant to subdivision (a) may qualify for and request an “RV-friendly” symbol for that sign. The department shall adopt rules and regulations for an “RV-friendly” symbol consistent with this section as well as the Federal Highway Administration’s Interim Approval for Addition of RV-friendly Symbol to Specific Service Signs. The rules and regulations adopted by the department shall include a provision for the roadside business to acknowledge that overnight occupancy is not permitted unless the roadside business is licensed as a special occupancy park as defined in Section 18862.43 of the Health and Safety Code. The department shall establish and charge an additional fee pursuant to subdivision (e) to place and maintain the symbol.